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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

BHS UPDATE

DATE: November 15, 2021

TO: Members of the County of Orange Behavioral Health Advisory Board

FROM: Jeffrey A. Nagel, Ph.D.
Behavioral Health Director

SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Update for October 2021

Adult and Older Adult Behavioral Health Services (AOABH)

Collaborative Services: The **TAO Central FSP** successfully outreached and enrolled 6 homeless members in October, and currently has 18 members who have been selected for emergency housing vouchers, Continuum of Care vouchers, or permanent housing placements. On 10/20/21, the **Mental Health Collaborative Court** team and the Whatever It Takes **WIT FSP** program director received Probation Department's 2021 Chief's Awards in the category of Team/Collaborative Partnership for finding creative ways to continue assessing potential program members despite court closures during the pandemic.

Housing and Supportive Services: The Westminster Crossing property located in Westminster has leased all 20 MHSA units. The AOABH Housing and Supportive Service office is working diligently with the Anaheim Housing Authority and property management to lease the nine remaining MHSA units at Buena Esperanza as soon as possible in efforts to lease all 35 MHSA units.

Inpatient Services: Behavioral Health Inpatient Services has partnered with Beacon Health Options of California (Beacon) to support implementation of our Utilization Management, concurrent review, and authorization program. Inpatient Services and Beacon provided three virtual trainings for impacted contracted and non-contracted acute care facilities. A concurrent review will begin on November 15, 2021.

Older Adult Services (OAS): During the month of October, **OASIS** hosted its first client event since the pandemic. They had an Autumn Festival that consisted of "Trick-or-treating" throughout OASIS where members were able to participate in various games/activities and win prizes. In addition, a boxed to-go lunch was provided for all members to take home. Additional groups were offered during October including: "Dia de los Muertos" Grief and Loss, Let's talk about It, Art, Seeking Safety, and a Men's group.

AOABH Central Services: All three **Wellness Center** facilities have resumed normal hours of operations, Monday thru Saturday, including one late night for each of the centers. Each of the centers will host a Thanksgiving meal for their members with an RSVP required. Each center will also arrange to have meals delivered to members that are not able to attend the in-person event.

The **SSI Outreach** and **Representative Payee provider Resource and Oversight Guidance Services (ROG)** continue to be fully operational and accepting referrals.

The **AOABH Peer Mentoring (PM)** program is fully operational for both tracks. In-person field visits are being conducted and staff wear face coverings during face-to-face services. The Track 2 Peer Navigator has continued to be embedded in the County Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and College Hospital CSU teams. Staff from both tracks maintain contact with their clients to assist with their basic needs and to provide options for available community resources.

Project Kinship (PK) was accepted into the HMIS/CES (Homeless Management Information System/Coordinated Entry System) as an applicant on November 8, 2021. PK is working with the HMIS/CES team to finalize training and documents to confirm PK as an official closed access point. PK will only be able to support individuals who are participants/clients with PK. It is estimated that by December 1, 2021, PK will be able to actively assess and enter individuals directly into the HMIS portal to provide increased housing support and community resources to those community members most in need. The PK Field Service Team resumed a full, in-person schedule of Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and expanded their hours to include Friday coverage from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Children, Youth and Prevention Behavioral Health Services (CYPBHS)

Prevention and Intervention: At the end of October, HCA launched a new media and community outreach campaign to prevent Orange County teens, 13 – 18 years old, from misusing prescription opioids. The campaign was created upon six, short eye-catching videos designed with a look like something teens would make and upload themselves on social media. Each 15 second video includes facts that emphasize the dangers of misusing prescription opioids with the message “Life Is Greater Than Drugs.” These videos link to a new website, www.lifeisgreaterhandrugs.com that provides information on the dangers of misusing prescription opioids, the dangers associated with Fentanyl, and highlights activities that are safe and fun. This campaign will reach youth where they spend much of their time: online and social media, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snap Chat. Youth will be encouraged to share the videos on their social media and with their followers. The first two videos that have been released can be found at <https://lifeisgreaterhandrugs.com/get-involved/>. The campaign will run through mid-February 2022, and during this period ADEPT will be collaborating with community providers and youth to plan outreach activities. Please help us share this information with the community and youth groups. Website materials are also being translated into Spanish and Vietnamese.

National Take Back Day took place on October 23rd and this initiative reminds us how we can safely dispose of unused prescription medications, providing additional local safe disposal locations during this semi-annual event. The Drug Enforcement Administration collected 3,937 pounds of medication in Orange County because of this effort in October.

First 5 Orange County has partnered in the **Stigma Free OC** Movement with HCA, by creating additional social media graphics and messaging for families with young children. The goal is to expand the reach of this initiative in support of early childhood mental health and addressing stigma that prevents families from accessing service. You can see some of these new graphics by visiting www.stigmafreeoc.com, clicking the Toolkit tab and then clicking the Social Media Content folder. In addition, Help Me Grow OC has been added as a resource on the Get Help Now page. Be Well OC Pillar groups have been actively involved in vetting out these new images and messaging. Next steps include creating posters and a toolkit/action plan for providers working with families with young children to also be housed on the website. The creation and distribution of these materials will be in collaboration with Be Well OC as a community driven effort.

The **Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)** released a time-limited Request for Applications (RFA) for Mental Health Community Educational Events on November 10, 2021. The primary goal of the events/activities will be to empower the community to access resources and seek help when needed for mental health wellness by raising awareness and reducing stigma and discrimination related to mental health. The RFA will close on December 3, 2021. For any questions, please contact Dene Andrea at: Dandrea@ochca.com

On November 16, 2021, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved a service expansion for existing suicide prevention and support services contract with Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Services for the current fiscal year FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23 to include “step-down” services in partnership with Orange County hospitals. These services will ensure that individuals in a crisis who are needing support following a discharge from a healthcare setting will have access to supportive suicide prevention, intervention, postvention and follow-up care services. These services will include individual intervention and/or treatment, support groups and/or individual, couples, or family therapy for at-risk individuals with suicidal ideations, prevention and postvention services. Presently, there are no suicide prevention “step-down” services available for individuals who are discharged from a hospital setting post treatment. The goal for these services is to address a gap, identified by the Community Suicide Prevention Initiative, in the continuum of care for at-risk individuals post discharge.

Lastly, the **OSP**, in collaboration with the Office of **Project Management and Quality Improvement** at the Health Care Agency, is planning to release a Dashboard in early December 2021 consisting of suicide and self-harm data in Orange County which can be useful for raising community awareness and planning and implementing suicide prevention, intervention and postvention efforts in Orange County.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

The MHSA Informational Meeting took place on November 15 via zoom teleconference. Lisa Row from HCA presented on MHSA Housing and Supportive Services. There will be no information meeting planned for December due to the holiday week. MHSA Informational meetings will reconvene in January. BHS Managers will meet to plan out a calendar for these meetings to update with the community stakeholders during December.

The MHSA Office participated in community survey gathering at the Vietnamese American Mental Health Association Walk on November 14 at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley and will participate in the NAMI Walk on November 20 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim.

Board Date	Item	Amount
11/16/2021	Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Service for Suicide Prevention and Support Services, 11/17/21 - 6/30/23	\$3,000,000